

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 7, 12, 14 and 16 in accordance with the following:

1. (previously presented) A graphic editing device, comprising:
 - a display unit to display a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series via lines;
 - a storage unit, coupled to said display unit, to store a first table with position information that indicates a position of each object displayed on said display unit, a second table with line information that identifies the lines connecting the first, second and third objects, and a third table with preceding information that identifies an object preceding each object, if any; and
 - an editor, coupled to said display unit and said storage unit, to delete the second object and to connect the first and third objects according to contents of the first, second and third tables in said storage unit, when the second object is selected, said editor adjusting a position of at least one of the first and third objects on said display unit to adjust a distance between the first and third objects, if the distance between the first and third objects after the second object is deleted is larger than a predetermined threshold.
2. (original) The graphic editing device according to claim 1, wherein said editor displays the third object in a position where the second object used be displayed when the second object is selected and deleted.
3. (original) The graphic editing device according to claim 1,
 - further comprising a coordinate system providing unit providing a virtual coordinate system in which each box is defined as an area for displaying an object,
 - wherein said display unit displays each object using the virtual coordinate system and said editor locates each object using the virtual coordinate system.
4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) A graphic editing device, comprising:
a display unit displaying a graphic including a first object, a plurality of second objects connected to the first object and a third object connected to the plurality of second objects; and
an editor deleting the plurality of second objects and automatically connecting the first and third objects when the plurality of second objects are selected.

6. (previously presented) A graphic editing device, comprising:
a display unit displaying a graphic including a plurality of first objects, a second object connected to the plurality of first objects and a plurality of third objects connected to the second object; and
an editor deleting the second object and separately connecting each of the plurality of first objects and each of the plurality of third objects automatically when the second object is selected.

7. (currently amended) A graphic editing device, comprising:
a display unit displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series; and
an editor automatically deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects when the second object is selected and dragged to a predetermined area.

8. (previously presented) A graphic editing device, comprising:
a display unit displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series; and
an editor deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects when the second object is selected and dragged to a specific relative position from a position of the graphic.

9. (original) The graphic editing device according to claim 7, wherein said editor corrects a distance between the first and third objects according to a predetermined condition.

10. (original) The graphic editing device according to claim 7, further comprising a management unit managing a sequence of the objects, said management unit manages the third object as a subordinate object to the first object, if the second object is subordinate to the

first object and the third object is subordinate to the second object before the second object is deleted.

11. (previously presented) A graphic editing method, comprising:

- displaying a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series via lines;
- storing in a first table position information which indicates a position of each object displayed;
- storing in a second table line information which identifies the lines connecting the first, second and third objects;
- storing in a third table preceding information which identifies an object preceding each object, if any; and
- deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects according to contents of the first, second and third tables, when the second object is selected, said editor adjusting a position of at least one of the first and third objects on said display unit to adjust the distance between the first and third objects, if the distance between the first and third objects after the second object is deleted is larger than a predetermined threshold.

12. (currently amended) A graphic editing method, comprising:

- displaying a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series; and
- automatically deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects when the second object is selected and dragged to a predetermined area.

13. (previously presented) A storage medium that stores a program to control a computer to perform a process comprising:

- displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series via lines;
- storing in a first table position information which indicates a position of each object displayed;
- storing in a second table line information which identifies the lines connecting the first, second and third objects;
- storing in a third table preceding information which identifies an object preceding each object, if any; and

deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects according to contents of the first, second and third tables, when the second object is selected, said editor adjusting a position of at least one of the first and third objects on said display unit to adjust the distance between the first and third objects, if the distance between the first and third objects after the second object is deleted is larger than a predetermined threshold.

14. (currently amended) A storage medium that stores a program executed by a computer, the program comprising:

a program code of displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series; and

a program code automatically deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects when the second object is selected and dragged to a predetermined area.

15. (previously presented) A graphic editing device, comprising:

displaying means for displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series via lines;

first table means for storing position information which indicates a position of each object displayed on said display unit;

second table means for storing line information which identifies the lines connecting the first, second and third objects;

third table means for storing preceding information which identifies an object preceding each object, if any; and

editing means for deleting the second object and connecting the first and the third objects according to contents of said first, second and third table means, when the second object is selected, said editor adjusting a position of at least one of the first and third objects on said display unit to adjust the distance between the first and third objects, if the distance between the first and third objects after the second object is deleted is larger than a predetermined threshold.

16. (currently amended) A graphic editing device, comprising:

displaying means for displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series; and

editing means for automatically deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects when the second object is selected and dragged to a predetermined area.